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By:

*Mehmet N. M.*Date: Nov 12, 2002IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hans-Jürgen Hacke /

#13  
Election  
J. Reinhardt  
11/22/02

Applic. No. : 09/833,260 /

Filed : April 10, 2001 /

Title : Electronic Component Having Microscopically Small Contact Areas and Method for Fabricating It

Examiner : Nitin Parekh

Group Art Unit: 2811

R E S P O N S EHon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D. C. 20231RECEIVED  
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir :

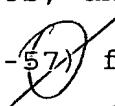
Responsive to the Office Action dated October 11, 2002, the following remarks are made:

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner made a restriction requirement between the product claims (claims 52-77) and the method claims (claims 78-104).

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that "the device of group I invention could be made by the process different from those of group II invention. For

example, by applying the closed conductive layer using electroplating process instead of chemical deposition or sputtering".

Claim 78 recites "applying a closed conductive layer". Dependent claim 80, which is dependent on claim 78, recites that the step of "applying a closed conductive layer" is performed using either vapor-deposition, sputtering, or deposition. However, whether or not a dependent claim contains additional limitations is irrelevant to the invention as recited in independent claim 78. Claim 78 merely recites "applying a closed conductive layer". Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner re-consider the restriction requirement made.

In deference to the restriction requirement on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, Applicant elects, under traverse, provisionally invention I (claims 52-~~57~~) for prosecution at this time.  77

Should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement, Applicant requests a rejoinder under MPEP §821.04 for the non-elected method claims at an appropriate later date.

Applicant will consider in due time whether or not to file a divisional for any non-elected method claims.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on  
the merits, and the allowance of the claims are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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